

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the following claims:

1. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus having:
 - an excitation filter unit for transmitting only exciting light with particular wavelengths, of illuminating light; and
 - an absorption filter unit for transmitting only fluorescent light produced from a specimen by irradiating the specimen with the exciting light to block the exciting light,
 - wherein a space between a half-value wavelength on a long-wavelength side of the excitation filter unit and a half-value wavelength on a short-wavelength side of the absorption filter unit is in a range of 6-12 nm, and
 - wherein the excitation filter unit has an ultraviolet cutoff filter formed on a base plate.
2. (original) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein variations in half-value wavelengths of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit where humidity is changed from 10% to 95% are within 0.5 nm.
3. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
4. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO₂ and Ta₂O₅.
5. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.
6. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

7. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
8. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
9. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
10. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
11. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 .
12. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.
13. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

14. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 ~~days~~ layers.

15. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

16. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

17. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the excitation filter unit has an infrared cutoff filter formed on a base plate.

18. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit has a filter that cuts off unwanted visible light and that is formed on a base plate.

19. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus having:

an excitation filter unit for transmitting only exciting light with particular wavelengths, of illuminating light; and

an absorption filter unit for transmitting only fluorescent light produced from a specimen by irradiating the specimen with the exciting light to block the exciting light,

wherein space between a half-value wavelength on a long-wavelength side of the excitation filter unit and a half-value wavelength on a short-wavelength side of the absorption filter unit is in a range of 6-12 nm, and

wherein variations in half-value wavelengths of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit where humidity is changed from 10% to 95% are within 0.5 nm.

20. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

21. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 .

22. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.

23. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

24. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

25. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

26. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.